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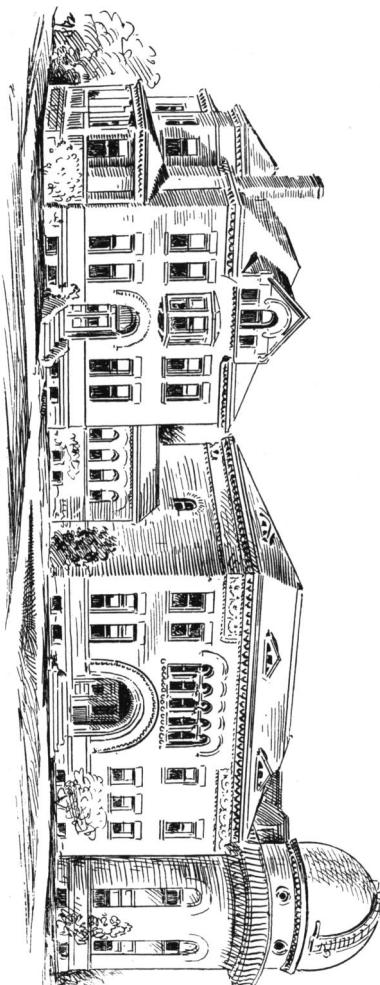
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comet had become much more diffuse. All parts of the comet gave a continuous spectrum and a trace of the green band, wave length about 516. As before, the band was most noticeable in the spectrum of the fainter regions of the comet. W. W. C.

THE NEW DUDLEY OBSERVATORY AT ALBANY, NEW YORK.

Letters received from Professor Boss, the Director of the DUDLEY Observatory, and an excellent press-telegram in the New York *Tribune* of September 24, 1892, give some account of the new DUDLEY Observatory buildings and equipment. The accompanying cut is from the *Tribune* article.

The DUDLEY Observatory was originally founded in 1857, by gifts from citizens of Albany. \$105,000 were given by the widow of CHARLES DUDLEY of Albany and \$80,000 by other persons. The observatory was built under the direction of Dr. B. A. GOULD. Difficulties with the Trustees prevented the first Director from carrying out the plans at Albany which he afterwards adopted for his survey of the Southern Sky at Cordoba. (See *Publications A. S. P.*, Vol. IV, page 25.) Dr. GOULD was succeeded by Professors BRÜNNOW and MITCHELL, and finally by Professor HOUGH, now of the DEARBORN Observatory at Evanston, Illinois. Two volumes of observations, etc., were published by the observatory during the administrations of these gentlemen. Professor Boss was appointed to be Director in 1876. The income of the observatory was very small, but a special fund of \$2700 was subscribed to provide for paying computers and copyists, and with this small sum Professor Boss undertook to observe one of the zones of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* containing 8243 stars of the 9th-10th magnitude or brighter lying between 1° and 5° of North Declination. The observations were made during the years 1878-1882, the computations practically finished in 1884, and the final catalogue in 1887. This very important work is a model for publications of its class. Professor Boss's chosen work is the determination of fundamental places of standard stars. For this purpose it is above all necessary to have a suitable meridian-circle mounted in a site free from disturbances by railway trains, etc., etc. The N. Y. Central R. R. tracks are very near to the old observatory, and it was determined (in 1891) to exchange the former site for a new one which should be free from this and other objections. This exchange was effected, and a sum of \$15,000 gained in this way: Miss CATHERINE



THE NEW DUDLEY OBSERVATORY.

BRUCE of New York City gave an endowment-fund of \$25,000; (Miss BRUCE, a member of this Society, had already given \$50,000 to provide the photographic telescope for Harvard College Observatory). Other subscriptions amounting to nearly \$19,000 have been received, mostly from the children of Messrs. OLCOTT and PRUVN, once Trustees of the original observatory. The new site is said to be entirely satisfactory. The plans for the buildings have been prepared by Professor Boss himself. A new 12-inch equatorial has been provided; and the former meridian-circle will be improved in several respects, and mounted and housed in the best manner. The rough cut herewith shows the general appearance of the observatory and the observers' house. The building for the meridian-circle is behind these structures, and is hidden by them. To complete the equipment, some \$6,000 more are required, which will, no doubt, be provided in due time. The new DUDLEY Observatory has been built to do a definite class of work entirely on the plans of the astronomer who has the work to do. It is hoped to be ready for work in the autumn of 1893. Even this inadequate account of the new institution will, no doubt, be welcome to those who know how much is to be expected from it.

E. S. H.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE CORONA WITHOUT AN ECLIPSE.

Several years ago Dr. HUGGINS made a series of experiments to determine whether it is possible to photograph the solar corona without an eclipse of the Sun. The difficulties to be overcome do not arise so much from the presence of the intensely brighter photosphere as from the fact that to all appearances the diffused light in our own atmosphere during full sunshine is stronger than the light of the corona. Dr. HUGGINS was hopeful of finding that in some region in the photographic part of the spectrum the light of the corona would exceed that of the sky. If only that part of the spectrum were used to photograph the Sun's surroundings, the contrast between the corona and the sky would permit the coronal outlines to be registered on the negative. By interposing colored glass screens between the lens and sensitive plate different parts of the spectrum were successively employed, and the best results were obtained by using only the blue rays. The images on some of his plates strikingly resembled the corona in form; but it was not certain whether they were coronal or false images due to instrumental defects.